

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE BILL 936

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION; REQUIRING
PARTICIPATION BY PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSIONERS; PROVIDING
CONSEQUENCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 8-8-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1998,
Chapter 108, Section 1) is amended to read:

"8-8-1. SHORT TITLE. -- [~~Sections 1 through 20 of this act]~~
Chapter 8, Article 8 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Public
Regulation Commission Act". "

Section 2. A new Section 8-8-19.1 NMSA 1978 is enacted to
read:

"8-8-19.1. [NEW MATERIAL] LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS--
COMMISSIONERS' DUTIES. --The legislature finds that the duties
of the public regulation commission are of such magnitude as to

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = del ete

1 require investment of full attention of the commissioners on
2 the regulatory tasks assigned to the commission by the
3 constitution and statutes. The efforts necessary to regulate
4 natural gas, pipeline safety, electricity production and
5 transmission, telecommunications, motor carrier and rail
6 transportation, emergency medical transportation and insurance
7 are severe burdens requiring enormous investment of time in
8 order to protect the public. The legislature further finds
9 that technology provides generous opportunities for the
10 commissioners to maintain contact with the residents of New
11 Mexico, statewide, and to obtain residents' opinions on issues
12 before the commission. As such, travel is not a necessary
13 component of commissioners' responsibilities."

14 Section 3. A new Section 8-8-19.2 NMSA 1978 is enacted to
15 read:

16 "8-8-19.2. [NEW MATERIAL] COMMISSIONERS' DUTIES--
17 COMPENSATION.--

18 A. Commissioners shall conduct themselves at all
19 times in a manner that maintains public trust and shall be
20 present in the offices of the commission at the seat of
21 government no less than four full working days each week to
22 receive full compensation pursuant to Section 8-1-1 NMSA 1978,
23 unless attending public hearings of the commission outside the
24 city of Santa Fe. Commissioners shall regularly participate in
25 working hearings with appropriate staff so as to fully

. 144131. 2

1 understand the complexity of issues brought for their
2 decisions. Commissioners shall participate in all public
3 hearings in which decisions of the commission are scheduled.

4 B. Failure to participate in commission business as
5 required by this section shall result in proportionate
6 reduction in compensation. Public expenditures shall be made
7 only for the maintenance of commission offices in the capital,
8 and there shall be no allowance or support for offices or staff
9 outside the capital. "